A

SERMON

Preached at the ORDINATION

Of the Reverend

Mr. *James Varney,*

In **Wilmington,**

October 24th. 1733.

And Publiſhed at the Deſire and Expence of a conſiderable Number of the Reverend Miniſters, and other Gentlemen then preſent:

Unto whom it is now humbly Dedicated.

By **Nathanael Henchman,** V.M.D.

Note, Several Paſſages in the following Diſcourſe, which for brevity ſake, were omitted in the Delivery, are now inſerted.

Epheſ. 4. 11, 12. *And he gave ſome* ——— *Paſtors for the work of the Miniſtry, for the edifying the Body of Chriſt.*

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BRITISH MUSEUM

The Divine Pastor.

AN

Ordination SERMON.

JEREMIAH III. 15.

AND I will give you Paſtors according to mine Heart, which ſhall feed you with Knowlege and Underſtanding.

VARIOUS are the Characters, conſiderable the Names, and beautiful the Metaphors, the Holy Ghost hath improved, to exhibit the important Buſineſs, and repreſent the weighty Employ, of Christ's Miniſters; ſome of which ſignificantly ſpeak their humble ſtate and appearing meanneſs, others import their advanced Dignity and ſuperiour Honour; ſome declare their incumbent Duties and urgent Labours, and others denote the preſſing Difficulties and dreadful Dangers, they are expoſed to.

The Title of Pastor is frequently applied to ſuch as miniſter before the Lord, and as this Character is expreſſive of the glorious Truſt repoſed in them by the

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Great and good Shepherd, ſo it may mind them of the tender Concern, inceſſant Watchfulneſs, unfainting Perſeverance, and unſpotted Fidelity, they are to exerciſe in Leading Feeding and Defending the Flock committed to their Paſtoral Care, that when CHRIST ſhall demand of them in the laſt Day, Where is the Beautiful Flock you watched over? They may reply, LORD here am I with the Sheep and Lambs that were my Special Charge, here are the *Seals of my Miniſtry in the* LORD.

THE Words read contain a very gracious Promiſe of GOD to his Covenant People, upon their proper Conduct towards him, and herein is laid down the Duty of Eccleſiaſtical Rulers, from whom they receive their Credentials, and what is expected of them in the diſcharge of their Office.

IN ſpeaking to this Text, I ſhall follow this Method,

I. *I ſhall Deſcribe the Paſtor after* GOD's *Heart.*

II. OBSERVE, *That ſuch Paſtors are the Gift of* GOD *to his People.*

III. *I ſhall Prove, That it is an Eſſential part of the Character of ſuch a Paſtor, to Feed thoſe to whom he is ſent, with Knowlege and Underſtanding.*

I. *I am to Deſcribe the Paſtor after* GOD's *Heart.* This I ſhall attempt in the following Particulars.

1. THE *Paſtor after* GOD's *Heart is Knowing of the Mind and Will of* GOD *revealed in the Goſpel, and endeavours an evangelical Conformity thereto.*

HE is well acquainted with Goſpel Doctrines and Duties, and is furniſhed with a valuable ſtore of Divine and uſeful Knowlege. He knows the Truth as it is in Jeſus, is mighty in the Scriptures, and gives heed thereto as to a ſure word of Prophecy. He makes the Word of GOD the Man of his counſel, and keeps by the HOLY GHOST, the Doctrines according to Godlineſs. He adheres to his Bible as the only rule of his Faith and Practice, hereby he tries all Doctrines, and endeavours to regulate the temper of his Mind, and his whole Converſation.

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HE is ſound in Knowlege and Faith, and regular in his Practice. He is not Depraved by Error or any of thoſe Principles which are *another Goſpel then* CHRST *Preached*, neither is he vitiated by carnal and ſpiritual Luſts, but is *purged from theſe*, and his *Heart enlarged to run with delight the way of* GOD's *Commands*, and ſtudys to live under the powerful Influence of a realizing belief of the rich Promiſes of the Goſpel and a lively Hope of the good contained in them.

2. SUCH *Paſtors have had experience of, and taſted the ſweetneſs of the Grace of God, which they offer to others.*

THEY are Renewed by the Grace of GOD that they may attend every part of their Duty, may exemplify JESUS CHRIST in their Life, and be *his Epiſtles to their Flocks.*

THEY excel in real Sanctity, and are *Veſſels prepared for the Maſters uſe and unto every good work*, by an efficacious work of Grace in their Hearts. *Their Lips are touched by a Seraph with a live Coal from God's altar*, and their Hearts are impreſſed with the ſaving influences of the *Spirit* of Grace, whereby their Iniquity is taken away, and their Sin is purged.

AS it is their Buſineſs *to Bear* CHRIST's *Name* and diſplay his Glory, ſo with a laudable Ambition they ſtrive to become *ſtrong in the Grace that is in Chriſt*, and to ſhine with a radiant Luſtre and Brightneſs, as Lights in the World, not only in the great myſteries of Godlineſs, but principally in an experimental Knowlege of Divine things, and an intimate Soul-acquaintance with Chriſt, and herein they are an *Example to Believers*, and *ſhew forth the vertues of him, who hath called them to miniſter before him.*

INDEED the Efficacy of Divine Inſtitutions doth not depend on the perſonal Sanctity of him that adminiſters them. Miniſters are ſubordinate Agents in CHRIST's Hands, They cant convey the Grace they ſpeak of, nor is it by their own Power or Holineſs, that their Labours are at any time ſucceeded. *The wea-*

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pons of their Warfare are mighty thro' GOD. The power of the Goſpel, and ſucceſs of the Miniſtry are derived from CHRIST, and the concurring Preſence and victorious Grace of GOD, accompanying the ſame. And GOD may improve an unconverted Miniſter to ſerve to the Salvation of others; he can *ordain to himſelf ſtrength out of the mouths of Babes*, and accompliſh his glorious deligns of Grace, by whatever Inſtrument he is pleaſed in his Wiſdom and Sovereignty to make uſe of.

BUT then, it is beyond Controverſie, that GOD moſtly improves and ſucceeds ſuch Miniſters who have a good foundation laid for uſe and ſerviceableneſs, by the renewing Grace of GOD. The Apoſtle Paul was ſavingly Converted and vitally united to CHRIST, before he was called *to Teſtify the Goſpel of the Grace of* GOD. He excelled in Grace, as well as Learning, Services, and Succeſſes.

SUCH Miniſters are beſt prepared, and moſt ſtrongly inclined, to make a tender of CHRIST and his Grace to others, in whoſe Heart the King of Glory hath been inwardly & powerfully revealed; they can ſpeak of CHRIST's lovelineſs and alſufficiency with greater life and affection, and in a more endearing and prevailing manner, recommend him to others as *the Chief among ten Thouſand*

3. PASTORS *after* GOD's *Heart carefully improve all the helps and advantages they enjoy to Furniſh them for their Work, and they are hearty and conſtant in the Diſcharge of it.*

THEY devote themſelves to the Buſineſs aſſigned them. By Study, Converſation, Experience, Obſervation, and Prayer, they improve their natural Powers, enlarge their views and apprehenſions, and Labour to excel in all Miniſterial Endowments and Qualifications.

AND they apply themſelves with equal Diligence to labour in GOD's Vineyard, they *cry aloud, and Travail in much pain to ſee a* CHRIST *formed in the Hearts of*

of their People. With a tender care and ſolicitude they inſpect their ſtate, obſerve their manner of Life, take notice of their deportment in all Conditions, their incumbent Duties, and how they diſcharge them, their Troubles, the cauſes of them, and how they improve under them, their Fears and Diſcouragements, their growth in Religion and improvement in Virtue, and their Decays and Languiſhments; and their Love to CHRIST fills them with a holy jealouſie, *leaſt they ſhould beſtow on them labour in vain.*

4. THEY *are ſuch Paſtors as* GOD *greatly delights in and approves.*

THEY are very dear and acceptable to GOD, he takes ſpecial ſatisfaction in them, looks upon their Services with an eye of Complacency, and he reſents what is done to them as done to himſelf; thoſe that *hear them hear him, and ſuch as deſpiſe them,* offer an high affront to GOD himſelf

GOD *who takes pleaſure in them that fear him,* tho' in the loweſt ſphere of Chriſtians, is much more delighted with thoſe that move regularly in an higher orb, and ſcatter divine and ſalutary Rays of Light and Heat to all round them, and are happily inſtrumental to inſtill into others, thoſe holy Principles of love to GOD, and the fear of the LORD, which declare that their Souls are impreſſed with a likeneſs to the Divine Perfections.

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II. To *obſerve that ſuch Paſtors are the Gift of* GOD *to his People.*

THIS Bleſſing is derived and conveyed to the Church, from *the Father of Lights* GOD of his rich Grace, makes a free Donation of them.

1. As *the Paſtoral office is of Divine Inſtitution.*

IT is from Heaven, and not of Men. It derives its original from the Glorious King and Head of the Church. GOD appoints *Stewards* in his Houſe, and *Paſtors* to feed his Flock. CHRIST *is Lord of the Harveſt, and he ſends Labourers into his Harveſt*; He nomi-

nates his own *Embaſſadors*, and calls whom he will to be fellow-*workers with him:* He invites Perſons to Spiritual Rule, and fixes them as Guides in his Church to miniſter to the Sanctification and Salvation of Souls.

GOD's propounding the Queſtion, *Whom ſhall I ſend?* implies, that it is his right to appoint Meſſengers to publiſh the Goſpel of Reconciliation.

THE *Prieſts* and *Levites* were impowered by GOD, and the *Prophets* to the coming of CHRIST had a Divine Call, and the Goſpel Miniſtry is one of the rich and magnificent Gifts of our *aſcended* LORD to his Church, it is one of the Largeſſes he diſpenced, when *a Cloud received him out of ſight.*

2. IT *is* GOD *that raiſes up, qualifies for, and ſpirits and inclines to this Service.*

HE chooſes the favourite Perſons, furniſhes them for, and diſpoſes them to this Sacred Employment. He endows them with natural and acquired accompliſhments, and *fills their Hands* with all neceſſary Gifts, to fit them for the Service of the Church. *The Hand of the* LORD *is with them,* to incline them to devote themſelves to his Uſe, and by his SPIRIT he works powerfully and efficaciouſly in them, to prepare them to *wait at the Altar.*

THE *reſidue of the Spirit is with GOD,* and as one ſet of Miniſters goes off the Stage, he raiſes up others to ſucceed them, who *take up the mantle of their aſcended Fathers,* and by earneſt Supplications to their GOD, obtain *a double portion of the ſame good Spirit,* that reſted on them.

WITH GOD is the fountain of all common and ſaving Gifts and Graces, and whenever he calls any to ſpecial Service, he prepares them in ſome good meaſure therefor, and gives them what is requiſite for the execution of their Commiſſion, while in a humble manner, and with many Prayers, they wait on him for his continual Aids, the full Supplies of his Grace and the unceaſing Influences of his Spirit.

As the Treaſure of the Goſpel is in earthen Veſſels, which

which are eaſily broken, ſo it is in empty Veſſels, till they are filled by JESUS CHRIST *in whom all Fulneſs dwells*: He *Cloaths them with Salvation, anoints them with freſh Oyl*, and ſets them up as Lights in his Church.

MINISTERS are *Stars in* CHRIST's *right Hand*, and thoſe that ſhine moſt radiantly, borrow their Light from the *Sun of Righteouſneſs*.

INDEED GOD makes Miniſters to differ in the Communications of Light and Grace, which he variouſly miniſtreth to them, anſwerable to their different Day and Station: The *Prophets* and *Apoſtles* were gifted in an extraordinary manner, as their Day called for; the World being then over-run with Ignorance and Idolatry: and in this Day of glorious Light, GOD graciouſly prepares his Miniſters to go on his Errand.

3. SUCH *Paſtors are the Gift of GOD as he regularly introduces them into Office in the Church.*

GOD ſeperates them to his Work, and brings them into the Sacred Order; He veſts them with Power, Authorities, and ſends them forth in his Name; this He actually doth by a ſolemn Ordination and Inſtalment: He conſtitutes them *Overſeers in his Church*, and actually commits the Rule and Government of it to them, and lays them under the awfulleſt bonds, to lead and feed the whole *Flock* committed to their Care: And all ſuch as enter into the Miniſtry, and invade the *Prieſt's Office*, without being called by GOD, and moved by the HOLY GHOST, are bold Intruders, and daringly Preſumptuous, and GOD will reward their Sin upon them.

4 As *it is* GOD *that continues them to his People, and makes their Labours ſucceſsful.*

GOD is the Health of their Countenance, and by help from Heaven, they continue in their Work. Are they *Sick, nigh to Death*, and Recovered? GOD *hath mercy on them*, and reſtores them. He carries them thro' a Sea of Troubles and preſſing Difficulties, makes them approved loved and honoured, and crowns their painful Labours with Succeſs.

UNLESS *GOD gives the increaſe of the Seed ſown*, and makes the *Word a ſavour of Life*, it will only ſerve to make blind Eyes blinder, and hard Hearts harder. The moſt rational and affectionate Diſcourſes, will be but an empty ſound, unleſs GOD accompanieth them with the irreſiſtible power of his Grace.

5. SUCH *Perſons are the Gift of GOD, as he hath made Proviſion for their Support.*

THERE is a Divine Appointment that *they who wait at the Altar ſhould live of the Altar*; and GOD *hath ordained that ſuch as Preach the Goſpel ſhould live of the Goſpel.* GOD's Miniſters are to be upheld by the Bread of the Miniſtry, and the with-holding it, is a criminal robbing of GOD.

IT is highly equitable that all things needful and decent be contributed to them, that in the midſt of their Toils, Fears and Cares, they may be able to render a comfortable Anſwer to that demand, *Lacked ye any thing?*

AGREABLY GOD hath given orders for his Miniſters Subſiſtence, and requires it not as Alms & Charity, but a due Debt. He hath not left it to the Election of any Man's capricious Humour, but hath ſtrictly enjoyned it. In this way the LORD of the whole Earth will be honoured with our Subſtance, and he expects it of us, *Quaſi Regale Vectigal*, as a Princely Revenue.

THE Jewiſh Miniſtry were plentifully provided for, although the whole Land of Canaan was but ſmall, *Forty eight Cities with their Suburbs were allotted to the Levites*, beſide the abundant Supplies they received from the *firſt Fruits and the Tythes*; and very ſtrict and frequently repeated is the Charge *not to forget the Levite.* And however under the Goſpel CHRIST's Miniſters are reduced to a ſlender Support, it is not owing to any defect in the Divine Care, but the prevailing Corruption and Degeneracy of the Day, wherein Men will not ſee *the ſnare there is in devouring that which is ſanctified*, and therefore invite the ALMIGHTY to ſtrain for his Right, which he will do to their Coſt: whereas

whereas if they would *try* GOD, and in ſome juſt Rule of Proportion, *as he proſpers them, lay by for ſacred Uſes*, GOD *would open the Windows of Heaven, and pour them out a Bleſſing.*

6. THEY *are the Gift of* GOD *to his People, as they muſt be accountable to Him, and from Him receive their Reward.*

THEY *watch for Souls as thoſe that muſt give account.* They muſt ſtand before the ſame *Judgment Seat*; be arraigned at the ſame Bar, and judged by the ſame Rule with others. This the Apoſtle plainly declares when he preſſes his Charge with ſo much Solemnity, and in Expreſſions full of majeſty and awful terror; 2 Tim. 4. 1. *I charge thee before God and the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who ſhall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.*

MINISTERS muſt account to GOD for themſelves, and all under their immediate Watch: It is therefore of Everlaſting Concern to them, to do all that in them lies *to ſave themſelves and thoſe that hear them.*

THEIR Reward will be *Secundum Laborem, non ſecundum Proventum*, according to their Fidelity, not their Succeſs. *He that ſoweth ſparingly ſhall reap ſparingly, and he that ſoweth plentifully ſhall reap plentifully. Their Judgment is with the Lord, and their Work with their God*: If they have been faithful, *tho' Iſrael be not gathered, they ſhall be glorious in the Eyes of the LORD.*

IT is time for me to proceed.

III. To Prove, *That it is an eſſential and genuine part of the Character of a Paſtor according to GOD's Heart, to Feed thoſe to whom he is ſent with Knowlege and Underſtanding.*

THIS is the Work and Duty CHRIST demands of thoſe, whom he hath placed as Spiritual Guides in his Church, *Feed my Sheep.*

THIS is the honourable Service they are called to, and delightfully employed in,

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THE Word uſed to expreſs this Duty, is obſerved by the Learned, to ſignify *to Feed*, as a Shepherd feeds his Sheep, *Paſcere more Paſtorum*

UNDER this general Head I ſhall

1. CONSIDER, *How Divine Paſtors are to Feed Chriſt's Flock.* And,

2. WHAT *is Requiſite thereto.*

1. To Conſider, *How Divine Paſtors are to Feed Chriſt's Flock.*

1. BY *Preaching the Word of GOD.*

IT was given in Charge to Timothy, *Preach the Word.* It is one principal part of a Miniſter's Service to Preach the Goſpel of GOD *our Saviour.* To Preach the ſolid ſubſtantial and ſavoury Truths of the Scriptures, and not the fancies and inventions of Men. And however mean and trivial, ignoble and inconſiderable, this Work may be eſteemed, it is truly great and excellent, as it is the ordinary Means of turning Men from a Form of Godlineſs, and reſting in an external Profeſſion, to the Power of a living Faith; and ſhould this *Viſion fail the People would periſh.*

MINISTERS are Commiſſioned and ſent to teach the great Myſteries of Godlineſs, to publiſh the glad Tidings of Salvation, and to make an unlimited tender of CHRIST and his Grace to the chief of Sinners. They are to Preach GOD's Word,

(1.) PLAINLY. Not darkning Divine Truths with words of humane Wiſdom, which ſerve to render the ſolid and ſaving ſimplicity of the Goſpel unſavoury. Miniſters are to *ſpeak as becomes the Oracles of GOD. To take* HEED *to their Doctrine*, that it be according to the Rule and Analogy of Faith; and to their *Style*, that it be eaſy and natural, as well as clean and manly; that they neither confound their Hearers by ſoaring aloft above their Capacities, either in their Diction, or by too fine a thread of Reaſoning, ſcholaſtical nicities and metaphyſical Diſtinctions; or render their matter dull and loathſome, by a ſlovenly and homely dreſs, and flat and lifeleſs expreſſions.

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THE excellency of Preaching doth not conſiſt in florid Phraſes, and luxuriant flights of Wit, adorning our Speech with the flowers of Eloquence, or in a rhetorical Elocution, which may better become a Stage than a Pulpit, and only ſerve to amuſe the Mind, pleaſe the curious Fancy, and affect the itching Ear, with a preſent charming, but ſoon fading Delight, inſtead of ſhining into the Heart with the Light of Heavenly Knowlege.

(2.) PURELY. Not corrupting Men's Minds, and depraving their Underſtandings, by falſe gloſſes and unwary prevarications. To unfold the glorious Myſteries of the Goſpel by ſtrained Conſtructions, and forced Interpretations, and to rack the Scriptures to favour their own Schemes, is to *handle the Word of GOD deceitfully*, and to be *wiſe above what is written*. They may not *teach for Doctrines the Commandments of Men*, but only thoſe things which CHRIST hath enjoyned, *in Doctrine ſhewing uncorruptneſs and ſound Speech*.

(3.) MINISTERS *are to Preach the Word of GOD Fully*.

THEY are to *deliver the whole Counſel of GOD, and keep back nothing that may be profitable*. They are to publiſh the *Law* to keep Men from Preſumption, and the *Goſpel* to ſave them from Deſpair. They muſt *ſet before Sinners Life and Death, Bleſſing and Curſing*; ſtartle and rouſe the ſecure Sleeper, and ſupport and comfort the trembling and diſconſolate Soul: Bold and daring Sinners muſt be warned to *flee from the Wrath to come*; *knowing the Terrors of the LORD*: and the awakened Soul that is ſtrugling under the Pangs of the new Birth, muſt be encouraged and drawn, invited and allured to CHRIST, by the ſweet Promiſes of the Goſpel, and the delicious Bleſſings of the new Covenant. As good Stewards they muſt regard the whole Family, and *give to every one his proper Portion*. As watchful and concerned Shepherds they muſt tender the whole Flock, and feed both the Sheep and Lambs.

ALL the Doctrines of Grace, and Rules of Practice, are wiſely ſuited to, and mercifully revealed for, the retrieving Sinners from the unhappy ſtate of Sin and Miſery they are naturally in, and to prepare them for, and advance them to, a perfect ſtate of Happineſs in a better World: It is therefore injuſtice to GOD, and unfaithfulneſs to the Souls of Men, for Miniſters to with-hold any part of the *Form of Sound Words*, which their Commiſſion directs them to publiſh.

AGREABLY then, They are to inform their Flocks of Man's holy and happy State as he came out of GOD's Hands, enjoying all that raviſhing Delight, which the Fore-thought of a glorious Immortality, and all the Good that an earthly Paradice, could miniſter to him. He was made but *little lower than the Angels*, adorned with GOD-like Qualifications, and placed at the Head of the lower Creation.

THEY muſt be acquainted with Man's woful Apoſtacy, and the deſtructive Conſequents thereof, -- that the *Crown is fallen*, Man's Honour laid in the Duſt, his form and comelineſs marr'd, all the noble Powers of his Mind impaired and darkned, and ten thouſand Miſeries continually await him; he is become ſubject to Death, polluted by Sin; and after a few days ſpent in ſorrow here, lies expoſed to the conſuming Vengeance of the *Eternal GOD*: and he hath intailed a horrid train of heavy Woes on his Poſterity, as the bitter fruits of his firſt Tranſgreſſion.

THEY muſt then be informed of GOD's gracious Purpoſe to raiſe out of the ruins of the Fall, ſome glorious Monuments of Mercy, to illuſtrate and diſplay the exceeding Riches of his Sovereign Grace, with the method that the Wiſdom of GOD projected to accompliſh this great Work, in ſuch a manner that one Attribute might not be glorified at the expence of another, but the Honour of them all effectually ſecured.

THEY muſt declare the nature of Man's Redemption, and inſtruct their People in the Important Doctrines of CHRIST's Perſon, Offices, Relations, and Benefits,

Benefits, and the fulneſs of his Satisfaction, the efficacy of his Sacrifice, and the merit of his Blood to waſh away the deepeſt Stains of Sin; CHRIST's readineſs to receive into his Boſom every repenting *Prodigal*, and the neceſſity of the SPIRIT's Application of CHRIST's Redemption. The Covenant of Grace muſt be opened in its Conditions, Offers, Seals, Promiſes, and End. They muſt acquaint them with the indiſpenſible neceſſity of a regenerating Work upon the Soul, without which none can be ſaved. Often mind them of the damnable nature of Sin, the Miſeries the unrenewed Man is an Heir to, the Obligations they are under to Holineſs, and the pleaſancy of Wiſdom's ways, with the rich Reward that attends it. They muſt labour to affect them with a feeling apprehenſion of their periſhing Condition while they are ſtrangers to CHRIST and the Grace of the Goſpel, and urge them by the moſt forcible Arguments, and alluring Motives, *to fly for refuge to the Hope ſet before them.*

THEY muſt endeavour to give them as clear and plain a view, as they can, of that ETERNAL WORLD that is before them, into which they will paſs, when Death hath diſſolved the vital tye between their Souls and Bodies, where the Righteous ſhall be rewarded with a *Bleſſedneſs*, which will be full tranſcendant and eternal, and the Wicked *puniſhed with an Everlaſting Deſtruction from GOD.*

(4.) THEY *muſt Preach the Word with Gravity, Solemnity, Authority, and Conſtancy.*

A light Air is not agreable to the great and ſolemn things that Miniſters are converſant about. Paul exhorts Titus *to ſhew Gravity.* The matters they treat of, are not indifferent, but very weighty, and demand the cloſeſt attention of Mind, and impreſſed awe of Soul. And they are *to Teach* and Preach *Boldly*, as they ſpeak in the Name of the *Lord of Glory*, nor may they give over their Labour, *but be inſtant in ſeaſon and out of ſeaſon*, readily embracing every agreable

Opportunity, to preach *Chriſt Crucified*, and ſerve the great Intereſts of Religion.

2. THEY *are to Feed Chriſt's Flock by adminiſtring the ſpecial Ordinances of the Goſpel, and diſpenſing the Diſcipline of the Church.*

CHRIST the Head of the Church, hath inſtituted *Ordinances* and *Orders* for the Edification, and due regulation of his Church. He hath appointed ſtanding *Sacraments* to be diſpenſed, for the growth and flouriſhing of his viſible Kingdom, and *Cenſures* to keep his Family pure: He hath therefore conſtituted an Order of Men, in his Name, to ſee that his Orders be duly obſerved, and the Seals of the New Covenant adminiſtred to meet Subjects.

UNDER the Goſpel Diſpenſation CHRIST's Embaſſadors upon their Introduction into their Sacred Office, are impowred to bring Perſons under the Bonds of the Covenant, Baptize them in his Name, to lead them to his Table, and adminiſter to them the lively Symbols of his Body and Blood, for the remiſſion of Sin. And they are *to rebuke with all Authority*, that they may keep the Church of GOD pure, *and not be partakers of other Men's Sins.* Such as *Sin openly*, they are to *Rebuke before all*; and *on ſome to have Compaſſion*, tempering their ſeverity with mildneſs, and *reſtoring the Penitent with a Spirit of meekneſs.*

INDEED *Miniſters are not Lords of GOD's Heritage*, but Rulers in his Houſe, and while they *Rule well* their People are obliged *to obey them in the LORD*: Nor may it be Authoritatively demanded of CHRIST's Miniſters to ſubſcribe to, or their People to be governed by, any Humane Scheme, Form, or Model of Government in the Church, but ſuch as is plainly declared in, or by neceſſary Conſequence may be deduced from the Scriptures.

3. BY *adminiſtring Counſels, Warnings, Reproofs, and Exhortations, as Circumſtances may demand, and Opportunity admit.*

THEY

THEY muſt *cry aloud and ſpare not, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wiſdom, doing nothing by partiality.* Neither fear nor favour ſhould ſtop their Mouths and damp their Courage, when the honour of CHRIST, and the good of Souls lye at ſtake. They muſt warn the Daring, inſtruct the Ignorant, confirm the Doubting, and excite the Dull & Sluggiſh. Their wiſdom muſt direct them in dealing with diſtreſſed Conſciences, that they do not on the one hand exceſſively diſcourage and affrighten, leaſt they *break the bruiſed Reed,* nor on the other Hand, that they do not cry Peace, where there is no Peace, and bolſter up a *Hope that will periſh.*

THEY muſt appear with Courage in the Cauſe of CHRIST, when bold Intruders and falſe Teachers invade their Flocks, and endeavour to erect *Altars to the unknown God,* upon the ruins of CHRIST's Kingdom. And all this muſt be purſued in proper Seaſons. There are ſpecial Opportunities which greatly accommodate for an eaſy Application and a kind Entertainment of their Miniſtrations, and which as much adorn and beautify them.

4. THEY *are to Feed them by their Prayers.*

THIS they may do, by their private and ſecret Addreſſes to Heaven; they may obtain many valuable Bleſſings for them in this way: But then, they are in an eſpecial manner, to Feed them by their *Publick Prayers,* herein repreſenting to GOD the State of their Flocks, mentioning before Him their various Wants, Burthens, Difficulties and Temptations, endeavouring to ſuit their Prayers to the Capacities and Caſes of their People, that their Devotion may be thereby kindled, and enflamed, their Love to GOD and CHRIST and Heavenly things encreaſed, and that they may be furthered in an experimental Knowlege of CHRIST, delightful Communion with Him, and in a Goſpel conformity to Him.

5. THEY *are to Feed them by going before them in the amiable and attractive Example of an Holy Life.*

THEY muſt careſully ſhun whatever may have a tendency to deface their Character, and blacken their Reputation, and beware leaſt by an unguarded Converſation they give a chilling damp to their Miniſtry.

EXAMPLE is a ready and eaſy way of Inſtructing, and it hath a marvellous efficacy: Agreably, Miniſters are exhorted to be an *Example to Believers*, and if they would anſwer the great Ends of their Miniſtry they muſt follow the *things that are pure, lovely, and of good report.* If their Life and Converſation run counter to their Profeſſion, Sermons and Prayers, their Miniſtry will little avail; whereas if Miniſters go before their People in a Heavenly Life, it will add a Luſtre to all their publick Services, and invite them to walk in the ſame pleaſant path to GOD's Eternal Kingdom.

I am now,

2. To Conſider *what are the Requiſite Qualifications, thus to Feed CHRIST's Flock.*

1. KNOWLEGE. An ignorant Miniſtry is a ſore Judgment on a People. *If the blind lead the blind*, they will be in hazard of ſinking together, into the Pit of Darkneſs.

PASTORS *according to GOD's Heart are well inſtructed to the Kingdom of Heaven, bringing out of their Treaſure things new and old*, being *enriched with all Knowlege and Utterance.*

As the Field of their Duty is large, they muſt acquaint themſelves with the ſeveral Parts of it, the Seaſons for diſcharging it, and labour to be furniſhed for it. And ſince it is not a common meaſure of Knowlege that will ſuffice for the acceptable diſcharge of their Office, they muſt diligently ſtudy the Scriptures, and improve all the Helps they enjoy, for their Improvement in Knowlege.

INDEED the Apoſtles were immediately inſpired and furniſhed with extraordinary Gifts, ſuch as we have no warrant in this day to expect; Knowlege will not come to us by indulging ſoft ſlumbers and delight-

delightſome eaſe, but we muſt *cry after Knowlege, and lift up our voice for Underſtanding.* And with ſingular care, Miniſters muſt ſtudy to know themſelves, and take notice of the various workings of their own Hearts, and they muſt endeavour to acquaint themſelves with the particular ſtate of their People, and obſerve their deportment in all Conditions.

2. WISDOM *and Prudence are neceſſary to qualify a Goſpel Miniſter.*

WHEN Chriſt Commiſſioned his Apoſtles to Preach the Goſpel, he recommends to them *the Wiſdom of the Serpent,* as well as the *Innocence of the Dove.* They are to *teach in all wiſdom. Wiſdom will be profitable to direct them.* The ignorance, prejudices, and miſtakes of the Weak, and the ſtubbornneſs and perverſeneſs of rough Tempers, with the different Education of Men, will call for the exerciſe of all the Wiſdom they are maſters of.

How wiſe need Miniſters to be, to chooſe ſuitable Subjects and properly to apply them to ſpecial Seaſons and ſudden Occurrences, *rightly to divide the Word of Truth*; to accommodate themſelves to the ſeveral Capacities, Reliſhes, and Inclinations of their Hearers, and agreably to addreſs Chriſtians of higher as well as lower Attainments? How wiſe to win Souls to CHRIST, and *to take Sinners by Guile,* and lead them to the *City of Refuge? Who then is a faithful and wiſe Servant whom his Lord hath made Ruler over his Houſhold Bleſſed is that Servant whom his Lord when he cometh ſhall find ſo doing.*

3. *A ſtudious and tender Regard for Souls.*

IT hath been ſaid by a maſterly Pen, *that Miniſters ſhould be Men of Bowels, as well as Brains.* They ſhould bear a hearty affection to precious Souls, *naturally care for Souls,* pity ſuch as forget GOD and their Souls, and *if poſſible, recover them out of the ſnare of the Devil.*

4. COURAGE *is requiſite for a Goſpel Miniſter.*

THEY need to be *ſtrong and very couragious,* for they

they wreſtle againſt Principalities and Powers, and the Rulers of the Darkneſs of this World.

THEY muſt look for Perſecution, and violent aſſaults from the Powers of Darkneſs, and from Men of corrupt Minds, who will belch out their Venom againſt them. They need to be armed with Courage, *that none of theſe things may move them,* but they may trample on Dangers, ſmile in the face of Terrors, and *count not their Life dear, ſo they may finiſh their Courſe with Joy, and teſtify the Goſpel of the Grace of GOD.*

5. FIDELITY *is eſſential to a divine Paſtor.*

THE Important Truſt committed to them, a regard to the Honour of CHRIST, and the Salvation of their own Souls, and the Souls of *thoſe that hear them,* loudly demand of them that they approve themſelves *faithful Stewards.* But I may not inſiſt.

6. UNFAINTING *Perſeverance.*

EVERY Day brings with it a freſh return of Service, and unleſs they hold on, and *preſs forward,* the Allurements of a vain World, and the Temptations of a ſubtle Devil, may render much of their paſt Service fruitleſs.

7. & laſtly. *A ſtrong Faith and Hope in things Inviſible is requiſite for a Goſpel Miniſter, that he may fulfil his Miniſtry.*

THIS will keep them from fainting, and animate them to the weighty Buſineſs they are called to. It will raiſe them above the mean views, and ſordid motives, of Profit and Honour. It will make their Work pleaſant: It will render their preſent Difficulties light; and fill them with Joy unſpeakable and full of Glory.

THUS I have, with as much brevity as I could, conſidered the Character and Services, of the DIVINE PASTOR.

ALL that remains, is to IMPROVE what hath been Offered: And the Time will allow me, little more then to mention, ſome of the many, juſt and weighty Reflections

Reflections, which the great and weighty Truths I have been ſpeaking of, lead us to.

1. WE *ſee then the Love, Compaſſion, and Grace of GOD, to a loſt and miſerable World.*

THAT He hath Inſtituted a Miniſtry of Reconciliation, and ordained an Order of Men, to propound the Terms of Peace and Pardon, and as *Embaſſadors of CHRIST, to beſeech Sinners to be reconciled unto GOD.* It is the fruit of GOD's rich Grace, that he raiſes up, qualifies and furniſhes, inclines and diſpoſes Men, and proſpers and ſucceeds Perſons in that ſacred Employment.

2. DESTITUTE *Flocks are hereby informed where to apply for Direction and Succeſs, and with what Views to be governed, in the Choice of a Paſtor.*

IT is GOD that raiſes up of his People's *Sons for Prophets*: They ſhould therefore wait upon him with their earneſt Prayers, that He would *ſhew them the goodly Perſon He hath choſen* to miniſter to them, and not be acted, by a ſtubborn Will, a humourſome Fancy, or a penurious Spirit, that will chooſe the cheapeſt, or by any private or ſiniſter aim: But *to Covet the beſt Gifts*, and the brighteſt Graces; to conſider, Who is the Man that hath the moſt Light, that is moſt richly furniſhed with Miniſterial Abilities? Who is the Man that hath moſt Love to CHRIST, and is tenderly concerned for the Salvation of Immortal Souls? Who is the Man that hath the Grace of GOD ruling in his Heart, and *ſhines* brighteſt in the ſanctifying and ſaving Influences of the SPIRIT and Grace of JESUS CHRIST?

3. HENCE *we learn the Dignity of the Miniſtry.*

IT is an honourable Work, nor *may it be accounted a ſmall thing that the GOD of Iſrael hath ſeperated them from the Congregation, to bring them near to himſelf to do the ſervice of the Tabernacle of the LORD, and to ſtand before the Congregation to miniſter to them*.*

* 1 Chron. 12. 21. Numb. 16 9.

THE

THE *Paſtoral Office magnifies the Miniſter, while in the ready diſcharge of his Duty he magnifies his Office.* And if we conſult the beſt Hiſtorical Accounts, we ſhall find that the Miniſterial Character hath been venerably eſteemed, by the wiſeſt and beſt of Men in the ſeveral Ages of the World; and notwithſtanding we are fallen into the dregs of Time, wherein this Sacred Office is meanly accounted of, and with ſupercilious Grandeur diſparaged, yet certainly it will appear to every unprejudiced Mind, to be a very honourable Employ, that conſiders the nature of things; by whom they are called, the Glorious Perſon they repreſent, by whoſe Authority they execute their Miniſtry, the Subject of the Goſpel, JESUS CHRIST, *whom they Preach, and not themſelves,* and the ineſtimable value of precious Souls, for whoſe Salvation they are in Labours abundant.

To *Preach the unſearchable Riches of* CHRIST, to diſplay his Glory, to enlarge the borders of his Kingdom, and to guide Souls in the way to a better World, is a Work worthy the moſt dignified Angel in Heaven, the brighteſt *Seraphims* that encircle the enlightned *Throne of GOD and the Lamb,* would account it a diſtinguiſhing *Honour done them by the King of Heaven, might this Grace be given to them.*

4. SUCH *then as treat CHRIST's Miniſters diminutively and reproachfully, are criminally Guilty before GOD.*

THE faithful Miniſters of CHRIST *are worthy of double Honour,* and juſtly deſerve a large ſhare in the Love, Eſteem, Reverence, and kind Regards of their Flocks, *Beautiful ſhould be the Feet of them that publiſh Salvation,* and very baſe ungrateful and vile is that Spirit, that invents ways to grieve diſtreſs and factiouſly contend with them, to weaken and diſcourage them, and repreſent them as Enemies & Traitors to the Churches Rights, and Invaders of its Privileges, and as dangerous Perſons that muſt be kept under. Whatever Dreſs ſuch appear in, and however plauſible their Pretences are, they are Agents for the Devil, and

Factors

Factors for the powers of Darkneſs: This is the policy of the Old Serpent to ſlur and blacken the Character of CHRIST's Miniſters, thereby to prevent their Uſe and Serviceableneſs, to ſtrengthen his own Intereſt, and increaſe the number of his Votaries.

5. MINISTERS *ſhould by all proper Methods Endeavour to maintain the Honour of their Poſt.*

THEY ſhould act nothing beneath their Station, and do all that in them lies to ſupport the ſinking Credit of their Office. As they are *Fathers* in the Church, they ſhould receive their juſt *Honours*, and accept ſuitable Expreſſions of regard, they ſhould aſſert their juſt Rights, and not tamely reſign their undoubted Privileges, nor obſequiouſly ſubmit to baſe Inſults, and Incroachments.

MINISTERS have an equal Claim with others, to the Natural and Political Rights of Mankind, nor are they obliged to depart therefrom, becauſe of their Sacred Employ, tho' in ſome ſpecial Caſes, it may be prudence, to give way.

PARTICULARLY they ſhould maintain the Honour of their Miniſtry, by paying a due regard to that Apoſtolical direction, *Lay Hands ſuddenly on no Man*: which doubtleſs is more immediately to be underſtood of Ordination to the Paſtoral Care, then of Abſolution of Penitents, by that primitive Ceremony uſed in it. By introducing Perſons unqualified into the Miniſtry, they will involve themſelves in the ill conſequences of ſuch a proceedure, and *give occaſion that the Miniſtry be blamed.*

6. How *carefully ſhould the Candidates for the Miniſtry beware of running haſtily and inadvertently into the Sacred Order.*

IT is a great Work, and requires Time and Study, cloſe application of Mind, a continued courſe of Endeavours and Prayers; nor may any adventure to engage in it, without agreeable Qualifications therefor.

7. THIS *proves to us, That the Means of a Religious and Learned Education are greatly to be valued.*

WE may well eſteem it a diſtinguiſhing Honour and Bleſſing to our Land that we have had Schools provided, and Colleges erected, from whence we have been Beautifyed and Repleniſhed with Illuſtrious Perſons, Men of bright Powers, and ſuperiour Accompliſhments, who have filled and honoured our firſt Chair of GOVERNMENT, have preſided at our Council Board, and in our Courts of Judicature, and ſuch as have faithfully and laudably ſerved CHRIST and his Churches, in the Goſpel Miniſtry. May Heaven ſtill bleſs thoſe Nurſeries of Learning and Religion, the Government continue to ſmile on them, and all that ſeek their Proſperity proſper. And may we be happy even to the lateſt Poſterity, in the Streams that ſhall flow from theſe Fountains.

8. THEN *great is the Difficulty and dreadful the Danger of this Work.*

THE Life of a Miniſter is not a ſoft eaſy and delicate Life, but attended with toilſome Labours, & diſtreſſing Fears; their Work is ever doing; and a ſudden Temptation may undo, that which hath coſt them much pains, *with many Prayers and Tears.*

As it is eaſy for Perſons to talk of Battle & Bravery in a Corner, ſo it is for the ignorant and tho'tleſs to repreſent the Miniſterial Employ as a light Service: But thoſe that are beſt Knowing, are ſenſible of the vaſt Difficulty and awful Danger of this advanced Station. Miniſters have their own Souls, which are dear to them, to ſecure Salvation for; they are in hazard of being *Caſt-aways themſelves*, and their own particular Account is large enough; how then will they account for their Flocks? And with what Trembling and Fear may they well enter upon, and proſecute their weighty Charge?

9. CHRIST's *Miniſters are hereby taught where to go for all needed Supplies & renewed Aſſiſtances, and to whom to give the Glory of all their Succeſſes*: even to JESUS CHRIST, in whom there is an *All-fulneſs*, and who *teacheth to Profit.* They muſt repair to CHRIST that they may derive from Him *Grace ſufficient* for every

Service,

Service, and to Him they muſt give the Glory. Is their Miniſtry bleſſed to open blind Eyes, ſoften hard Hearts, quicken dead Souls, and comfort the dejected & diſconſolate; their *Praiſes muſt wait for GOD in Zion.*

10. WE *may well conclude that* GOD's *People are under very ſtrong & binding Obligations, to Aſſiſt, Support, Encourage, and Strengthen their Paſtors, in the Service of their Great* LORD. They are to do this,

BY *obeying them*, kindly entertaining the Meſſages of GOD, which they bring to them, and willingly ſubjecting themſelves to their Inſtructions, Counſels and Admonitions.

AGAIN, By maintaining a hearty Love for them: accounting them real Friends to their Souls, and freely repairing to them, under all their Troubles, Burthens, and Diſtreſſes.

FURTHERMORE, By yielding them an honourable Support. To maintain the Miniſtry is not a fruitleſs Expence.

IN a word, By their importunate Prayers for them. CHRIST's Miniſters need, & earneſtly deſire the Prayers of GOD's People for them, Heb. 13. 18. *Pray for us.*

AND it is juſt matter of Lamentation, that ſo many valuable Miniſters of CHRIST in this Land, are brought to a low way of Living, and their Maintenance is ſo ſcanty thro' the prevalency of a mean and levelling Spirit, a ſlight eſteem of the Goſpel, and the injurious Defraudation they ſuſtain by the Depretiation of our paſſing Medium, which is eventually become a cruel Engine of Oppreſſion.

IT is a black Reproach to NEW-ENGLAND, That, while we are making a ſplendid Profeſſion, and pretend a high value for the Goſpel and the Eccleſiaſtical Liberties our Fathers purchaſed at ſo dear a rate, we withhold more than is meet from the Diſpenſers of thoſe Glorious Myſteries; and that no effectual Meaſures are concerted, to comfort CHRIST's Miniſters under their heavy Diſcouragements, and recompence their Loſs, the neglect whereof is the fruitful Scource of many unhappy Contentions at this Day.

AND

AND happy will it be for us, if this, among other Articles, doth not haſten upon us, what we ſhall groan under as Inſupportable, when it is too late to ſeek Relief.

II. SURELY *unſpeakably Glorious will be the Reward of every Paſtor after GOD's Heart.*

THO' they *ſow in Tears*, and under heavy burdens preſſing them to the Earth, they ſhall *reap joyfully* a glorious Harveſt. *An exceeding Weight of Glory* will be the certain Portion of all that *watch for Souls*, and *are faithful unto Death.*

WE can't adequately conceive, and much leſs fully and comprehenſively expreſs, the greatneſs of that Glory that is laid up in Heaven for them that *Turn many to Righteouſneſs.* It is repreſented to us in the Scriptures by very lofty and elegant Metaphors. *An open Entrance ſhall be adminiſtred to them thro' the Gates of the Heavenly City; they ſhall be with* CHRIST, *where he is, to behold his Glory*: And that Word of his ſhall be fulfilled to them, Joh. 12. 26. *If any man ſerve me, him will my Father honour.*

WILL now my Reverend Fathers and Brethren in the Miniſtry, ſuffer me, however unworthy I am to be numbred with them, from what hath been ſaid on this ſolemn Occaſion, *To obſerve*, How much it concerns us to take heed that we fulfil our Miniſtry, and approve our ſelves *Paſtors according to GOD's Heart.*

IF we neglect our own Souls, and fail of the Grace of GOD, while we are miniſtring to the Salvation of others, how increaſed will our Guilt be? How inlarged our Account? and how aggravated our Condemnation?

IF we *do the Work of the* LORD *negligently*, and betray our Sacred Truſt; thro' carnal Fear, ſenſual Pleaſures, ſecular Views, love of Eaſe, or a fond affection for popular Applauſe, we ſhall fall under the ſevereſt Puniſhment.

AND

AND will it not be more terrible for us, then others, to lye expoſed to the ſore Diſpleaſure of JESUS CHRIST, and the awful Revenges of the Heart-ſearching GOD.

LET us then *Watch, Stand faſt, and Quit our ſelves as good Stewards of the manifold Grace of GOD.* Let us live up to our Preaching, and practice anſwerable to our Profeſſion, Obligations and Hopes. What Strength of Grace ſhould we labour after? And how fervent ſhould we be in our Prayers? That GOD would beautify us with his Gifts and Graces, delight to Uſe and Honour us long in his Service, and at laſt receive us into the Embraces of his Boſom, and Reward us with a Flouriſhing *and never fading Crown of Glory.*

I PROCEED particularly to Addreſs my ſelf to you, DEAR SIR, at whoſe Deſire I ſtand here this Day, and have taken upon me this Province, to ſpeak of *the Duties and Solemnity of the Paſtoral Charge.*

I conclude you have conſidered what I have already offered, as prepared in an eſpecial manner for you. And I preſume you will ſuffer me with Freedom, Plainneſs, and Affection, to bring the Counſels of GOD to you; nor will you account it an impropriety in me, to Exhort you, *To take heed to your Self, to your Doctrine, and to the whole Flock, over which the* HOLY GHOST *is about to make you an Overſeer; leaſt after you have Preached to others,* and ſerved as a Light to direct them in the way to a better World, *you yourſelf ſhould become a Caſt-away.*

YOU are now Conſecrating your ſelf to GOD in the Work of the Evangelical Miniſtry; and to be introduced into a Dear Relation to this People, who have Elected you *to take the Overſight of them* as your peculiar Charge. *The Glorious Goſpel of the Bleſſed GOD is now to be committed to your Truſt.* And very Solemn is the *Charge* which you are coming under

before

before GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Elect Angels, and this Aſſembly; and Important is the Work you are now entring upon. Labour then to be skilful, faithful and ſucceſsful, with fear and trembling, and an entire reliance on JESUS CHRIST, and the All-powerful Aids of the HOLY GHOST, enter into this Sacred Office. *Give your ſelf to Reading, Meditation and Prayer,* and *be wholly in them. Grow in Grace,* in Gifts and Uſefulneſs. Remember your *Baptiſmal Vow as a Chriſtian,* and often reflect on the Work of this Day, and your *Ordination Vow as a Miniſter.* See that you *walk Circumſpectly,* and live the Doctrines you Preach, that the World may be convinced that you really believe the Truths you recommend to others.

LOOK *well to your own Vineyard,* and walk cloſely with GOD. Obſerve the various Workings of your own Heart, and the different Temper of your own Soul. Exemplify a CHRIST in the whole of your Conduct: The more you excel in real Piety and vital Chriſtianity, the more you will excel as a Miniſter, both in an extenſive Serviceableneſs, and deſireable Succeſsfulneſs.

BE *an Example to Believers* in every thing that is *vertuous and lovely.* Fix your End well, and engage in the Strength of CHRIST. *Fear not the Faces* nor the Frowns *of Men,* neither ſuffer the Smiles or Terrors of the World, to allure or deter you from any part of your Duty

FEED *CHRIST's Sheep,* and *Feed his Lambs, Wait on your Miniſtry, Warning every Man, and inſtructing every Man in all Wiſdom, that you may preſent every man perfect in CHRIST JESUS.*

You muſt expect to encounter Difficulties and Temptations on every ſide, from Good and Bad, from Friends and Foes, from a deceitful Heart within, and a ſubtil Devil and deluding World without. The ſtrength of your own Corruptions, your Weakneſs, Defects and Imperfections, and the froward Tempers, boiſterous

boiſterous Paſſions, unruly Tongues, and differing Circumſtances of Men, will draw a black Cloud over you, and call for the lively exerciſe of your Patience, Faith, and Hope. *But let none of theſe things move you: Be ſtrong and very couragious; Endure Hardneſs as a good Soldier.* And be always mindful that it is but a little time that you can ſerve your great Maſter here, and let this Conſideration have it's due weight with you, to quicken you *to work the works of him that ſent you, while it is Day*, that when you ſhall have *Accompliſhed your Warfare*, and your turn ſhall come to change Worlds, you may be *clear from the Blood of all Men*, and may lay down your Head in Peace.

BE much in Prayer that GOD would vouchſafe his Preſence with you, and that the Spirit of Glory may now reſt upon you, that when you ſhall be ſet apart, by *Prayer with the Laying on of Hands*, you may hear CHRIST ſaying to you, *My Grace is ſufficient for you, You are a choſen Veſſel to me, I will ſtrengthen and uphold you with the Right Hand of my Righteouſneſs*, and crown your Labours with Succeſs, and Reward your few Days Service for me on Earth, with an Eternal Life of Glory in my Kingdom. So ſhall you have abundant Reaſon to Remember the Solemnities of this Day with Joy and Thankfulneſs, till Time ſhall be with you no more.

WE *Bleſs you in the Name of the LORD, and wiſh Proſperity to you out of the Houſe of our GOD.* We pray GOD to make you a rich Bleſſing in this Place, and to the neighbouring Churches, for a great while to come: And that when you are diſmiſſed from your Labours here, you may ſtand before the Son of Man with ſuperiour Characters of Honour, and receive that diſtinguiſhing Reward of which the Prophet ſpeaks, Dan. 12. 3. *And they that are wiſe ſhall ſhine as the Brightneſs of the Firmament; and they that turn many to Righteouſneſs, as the Stars for ever and ever.*

AND

AND ſhall I ſay to this People, to whom our Aſcended LORD is this Day preſenting a *Paſtor to Feed them with Knowlege and Underſtanding*, Receive this Servant of *CHRIST, that is coming to you by the will of GOD, as a Steward of the Myſteries of GOD, and ſo account of him as a Miniſter of CHRIST*, and a hearty Friend to your Souls.

ACCEPT him with Joy and Thankfulneſs, and conſider his Relation to CHRIST as well as to you, and *count him worthy of double Honour*. Endeavour to maintain his Credit, and be very tender of his Name and Reputation, do nothing to weaken and diſcourage him, but all that in you lies, to ſupport & ſtrengthen him, in Guiding Leading and Feeding you, in Preaching the great Doctrines of our Holy Religion, with the practical Truths of the Goſpel; in Adminiſtring the ſpecial Seals of the Covenant of Grace, and in diſpenſing the Holy Diſcipline of the Church.

EASE him, as far as you can, of his Burthens, charitably overlook his Infirmities, and *miniſter to all his need*. Be free and generous in Supporting him, that he may not be compelled to engage in Secular Buſineſs, or expoſed to appear and live meanly, below the Dignity of his Station.

HEAR CHRIST ſpeaking to you by him, and *take heed how you hear, for by the Word that you hear now, you ſhall be judged at the laſt Day.*

FINALLY, *Pray for him*, that he may come to you laden with the rich Treaſures of the Goſpel; may be a *Helper of your Faith and Joy*, and your dear Children may rejoyce in his Light, when you ſhall be *Gathered to your Fathers* in the dark and ſilent Grave. Pray for him, when you are neareſt the *Throne of Grace*, that he may *approve himſelf to GOD, a Workman that need not be aſhamed*; and *that he who ſows, and you that reap, may for ever rejoyce together.*

To

TO CONCLUDE, Let us all in our reſpective Relations endeavour uprightly to diſcharge our incumbent Duties. Let us look to the Subſtance of our Holy Religion, Conſcienciouſly regard thoſe Grand Articles of Faith which all Orthodox Chriſtians ſubſcribe, and carefully adhere to the Important Matters of the Chriſtian Practice, and labour to advance a Holy Life in our ſelves and others, ſince it is not the *Name of a Chriſtian* that will intitle us to a Seat at CHRIST's *Right Hand*, but *doing the will of our Father in Heaven.*

LET us beware leaſt while we diſpute about External Form and Goſpel Order, and by an Intemperate Zeal for the Controverted Appendages of Religion, we looſe the Life and Power of vital Holineſs.

BUT let us Practice according to our beſt Light, and be governed by the Dictates of well informed Conſciences. Let us live in the Exerciſe of all the Vertues of the renewed Mind and divine Life: Give up our ſelves to GOD as our chief Good, ſupreme Happineſs, and laſt End: Accept of JESUS CHRIST as our only Redeemer on the Terms of the Goſpel Covenant, and ſubmit to the Conduct and Teachings of the Eternal SPIRIT: And let us Love and Honour all as our Brethren, that *Love and Honour* CHRIST *in Sincerity, however in leſſer Matters they may differ from us. So ſhall we be aſſured of our Salvation, whatever Office we ſuſtain, and of whatever Party of Proteſtants we profeſs our ſelves.*

NOW unto Him that is of power to build us up in Faith and Holineſs here, and to preſent us faultleſs before the Preſence of his Glory hereafter; To the only wiſe GOD, and our SAVIOUR be Honour and Glory Everlaſting. AMEN.

FINIS.

Advertiſement.

THE Reader is deſired to Correct the ſeveral literal Errata's, which by reaſon of the Author's Abſence have paſs'd the Preſs.

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